Adoption of Foreign Technology in Steel Sector

5116. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector steel plants manufacturing sponge iron are employing foreign technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of foreign collaborators; and

(c) the export earnings of these during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b): Sponge iron is not being manufactured by public sector steel plants. However, there is one sponge iron plant with a capacity of 60000 tonnes per annum at Paloncha in Andhra Pradesh, operated by sponge Iron India Ltd (SIIL), a public sector company. The first module of this plant a capacity of 30000 t. p. a. was commissioned in 1981. This was set up with UNIDO assistance and with technology supplied by M/S Lurgi, Gmbh of Germany. The second module of the same capacity was set up by SIIL itself.

(c) Sponge Iron is not being exported at present as there is shortage in the country.

Oil Palm Plantation

5117. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under Oil Palm Plantation, State-wise;

(b) whether any incentives are being given to backward, hilly and coastal areas for plantation of Oil Palm;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the plantation of Oil Palm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated area under Oil Palm plantation, State/Union Territory-wise is as under:

Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1593 ha.
Andhra Pradesh	1215 ha.
Karnataka	1020 ha.
Kerala	3700 ha.
Maharashtra	700 ha.
Total	8228 ha.

(b) and (c) Government of India, the Department of Biotechnology, has launched jointly with the State Governments oil palm demonstration projects (ODPS) over an area about 1000 ha. each in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The areas covered are East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh,